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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicant: Thomas H. Roessler et al. Docket No.: 14,541
Serial No.: 09/216,545 Group No.: 3761
Confirmation No.: 9533 Examiner: K. Reichle
Filed: December 18, 1998 Date: April 22, 2002
For: PANT-LIKE DISPOSABLE ABSORBENT ARTICLES WITH AN EASY
OPENING FEATURE

Information Disclosure Statement Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) Before Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance Fee

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97 et seq., Applicants, through and by their attorneys, hereby wish to direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the attached modified PTO Form 1449.

By inclusion of any given document in this Information Disclosure Statement, Applicants in no way admit that such document is effective as prior art against the above-identified application under either 35 U.S.C. 102 or 35 U.S.C. 103.

Additionally, submission of any document is not to be taken as an admission of the materiality of the document to the prosecution of the present application.

The Examiner is requested to review each cited document and personally determine its prior art status.

Applicants recommend that the Examiner conduct an independent search for any and all available material prior art and independently review the results of such search and the documents cited within this Statement.

A completed modified PTO-1449 form listing the documents to which the Examiner's attention is directed and copies of those documents are presented herewith for the Examiner's review and convenience.

Applicants request the Examiner, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, to indicate and make of record receipt and review of all of these documents by initialing the appropriate box in the accompanying PTO-1449. Applicants request that the undersigned receive a copy of the initialed PTO-1449.

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If the Examiner refuses to consider any or all of the herein submitted materials because it is the Examiner's opinion that this Information Disclosure Statement is not in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner notify the undersigned, in writing, as to the basis of such opinion.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p), please charge the \$180.00 fee for filing this Information Disclosure Statement to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875. Please charge any other prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875. A duplicate of this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted to aid the Examiner in charging the fee.

The undersigned may be reached at: 920-721-2433.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS H. ROESSLER ET AL.

By: Alyssa A. Dudkowski
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Registration No.: 40,596



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PATENT

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence comprising:

Information Disclosure Statement Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2)
Before Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance
Fee
3 Page(s) of PTO Form 1449
51 Document(s)

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in a box addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

on: April 22, 2002

Nanette A. Dotts

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